

PRESS RELEASE



Media Contacts:

Berlin: Sarah Tyler / Ines Selwood

Tel: +49 30 3438 2045/19. Fax: +49 30 3470 3912.

Email: press@transparency.org

London:

Barbara Ann Clay: +49 (0) 171 499 2061

Jesse Garcia: +49 (0) 162 419 6454

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Africa and the Middle East Regional Highlights Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2005

Countries in the Middle East continue to score significantly better than those in Africa, with Jordan showing some improvements compared with last year. Due to the inclusion of a new source (UNECA), more African countries have been included in the CPI this year. However, Africa is the continent with the lowest average in the CPI and 31 countries out of 44 listed in the CPI 2005 score less than 3.0, a sign of rampant corruption.

Improvers 2004 to 2005

Jordan (CPI 2005 score 5.7; CPI 2004 score 5.3) has a CPI score well above the average in the region, and shows a slight improvement compared with last year and over the past decade. This can be attributed to its relatively liberal stance regarding political and social affairs, and numerous new laws based on international standards that have accompanied the reform process. As a result of the input of the Jordan Transparency Forum, Jordan will be the first Arab country to establish an independent agency to fight corruption.

Nigeria (CPI 2005 score 1.9; CPI 2004 score 1.6) is marked by severe corruption, and has consistently received one of the worst scores in recent CPIs. This can be attributed to the prolonged military dictatorship and the resultant ad hoc nature of issues of governance. In addition, the lack of emphasis on accountability has led to the entrenchment and institutionalisation of the practice of impunity. In particular, anti-corruption initiatives lack a holistic approach and two major components in the legal framework are missing, i.e. Access to Information and Whistle-Blowers Protection Laws. Despite this worrying situation, the slight improvement recorded since last year can be attributed to the vigorous pursuit of sanctions by the government and the energising of some structures for combating corruption.

First appearance in the CPI

Burkina Faso (CPI 2005 score 3.4) appears in the CPI for the first time, scoring approximately 0.6 points above the African regional average. This reflects the situation of a country undergoing reforms, but with major ongoing challenges in tackling corruption. Despite government promises to create new institutions such as a Public Accounts Court (PAC) that will oversee the management of public finances, and ratifying international conventions, poor access to information and a culture of relative impunity put these efforts in doubt.

Please turn over

Burundi (CPI 2005 score 2.3) and **Liberia** (CPI 2005 score 2.2) appear in the CPI for the first time with very low scores, reflecting the perception of rampant corruption. Both countries have been immersed in civil war for many years, with disastrous consequences for the spread of corruption into every aspect of the public and private sectors. In the absence of real peace and security, the fight against corruption is an enormous challenge. Despite the firm position of the recently elected president of Burundi to fight corruption and promote good governance, coupled with internationally supported projects to strengthen the judiciary, public procurement and administration reform, questions remain as to the effectiveness of this approach.

Other newcomers to the CPI 2005 are **Equatorial Guinea** (CPI 2005 score 1.9), **Lesotho** (CPI 2005 score 3.4), **Rwanda** (CPI 2005 score 3.1), **Somalia** (CPI 2005 score 2.1) and **Swaziland** (CPI 2005 score 2.7).

Consistently low scorer

Chad (CPI 2005 score 1.7; CPI 2004 score 1.7) has received the worst score in Africa and worldwide in the CPI 2005. The country is marked by political instability, human rights abuses and weak press freedom. Chad is also the location of the challenging World Bank-funded Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline project, which is attempting to defy the “resource curse” by using oil revenues to reduce poverty. The project depends heavily on the political will of the government to respect the rule of law. While Chad has achieved a degree of transparency not seen in other oil-rich countries, ongoing reports of mismanagement or corruption must be followed by government action.

Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index 2005

MIDDLE EAST

Regional average: 4.37
Global average: 4.11

Country Rank	Regional rank	Country	2005 CPI Score	Confidence range	Surveys Used
28	1	Israel	6.3	5.7 - 6.9	10
		Oman	6.3	5.2 - 7.3	5
30	3	United Arab Emirates	6.2	5.3 - 7.1	6
32	4	Qatar	5.9	5.6 - 6.4	5
36	5	Bahrain	5.8	5.3 - 6.3	6
37	6	Jordan	5.7	5.1 - 6.1	10
45	7	Kuwait	4.7	4.0 - 5.2	6
70	8	Saudi Arabia	3.4	2.7 - 4.1	5
		Syria	3.4	2.8 - 4.2	5
83	10	Lebanon	3.1	2.7 - 3.3	4
88	11	Iran	2.9	2.3 - 3.3	5
103	12	Yemen	2.7	2.4 - 3.2	5
107	13	Palestine	2.6	2.1 - 2.8	3
137	14	Iraq	2.2	1.5 - 2.9	4

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Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index 2005

AFRICA

Regional average: 2.86

Global average: 4.11

Country Rank	Regional rank	Country	2005 CPI Score	Confidence range	Surveys Used
32	1	Botswana	5.9	5.1 - 6.7	8
43	2	Tunisia	4.9	4.4 - 5.6	7
46	3	South Africa	4.5	4.2 - 4.8	11
47	4	Namibia	4.3	3.8 - 4.9	8
51	5	Mauritius	4.2	3.4 - 5.0	6
55	6	Seychelles	4.0	3.5 - 4.2	3
65	7	Ghana	3.5	3.2 - 4.0	8
70	8	Burkina Faso	3.4	2.7 - 3.9	3
		Egypt	3.4	3.0 - 3.9	9
		Lesotho	3.4	2.6 - 3.9	3
78	11	Morocco	3.2	2.8 - 3.6	8
		Senegal	3.2	2.8 - 3.6	6
83	13	Rwanda	3.1	2.1 - 4.1	3
88	14	Benin	2.9	2.1 - 4.0	5
		Gabon	2.9	2.1 - 3.6	4
		Mali	2.9	2.3 - 3.6	8
		Tanzania	2.9	2.6 - 3.1	8
97	18	Algeria	2.8	2.5 - 3.3	7
		Madagascar	2.8	1.9 - 3.7	5
		Malawi	2.8	2.3 - 3.4	7
		Mozambique	2.8	2.4 - 3.1	8
103	22	Gambia	2.7	2.3 - 3.1	7
		Swaziland	2.7	2.0 - 3.1	3
107	24	Eritrea	2.6	1.7 - 3.5	3
		Zambia	2.6	2.3 - 2.9	7
		Zimbabwe	2.6	2.1 - 3.0	7
117	27	Libya	2.5	2.0 - 3.0	4
		Uganda	2.5	2.2 - 2.8	8
126	29	Niger	2.4	2.2 - 2.6	4
		Sierra Leone	2.4	2.1 - 2.7	3
130	31	Burundi	2.3	2.1 - 2.5	3
		Congo, Republic	2.3	2.1 - 2.6	4
137	33	Cameroon	2.2	2.0 - 2.5	6
		Ethiopia	2.2	2.0 - 2.5	8
		Liberia	2.2	2.1 - 2.3	3
144	36	Congo, Democratic Republic	2.1	1.8 - 2.3	4
		Kenya	2.1	1.8 - 2.4	8
		Somalia	2.1	1.6 - 2.2	3
		Sudan	2.1	1.9 - 2.2	5
151	40	Angola	2.0	1.8 - 2.1	5
152	41	Cote d'Ivoire	1.9	1.7 - 2.1	4
		Equatorial Guinea	1.9	1.6 - 2.1	3
		Nigeria	1.9	1.7 - 2.0	9
158	44	Chad	1.7	1.3 - 2.1	6